body parts, apart from providing breeding stocks for reintroduction and restoration of wild tiger in China.

(b) and (c) India made an intervention in the said meeting, appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized. Further, India also introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. This was adopted as a decision with minor amendments.

Pollution in four metros

3288. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present level of pollution prevailing in the four metros of the country;

(b) the main reasons for the present level of pollution in these cities;

(c) the measures being taken to reduce the level of pollution;

(d) whether any special funds have been earmarked for these schemes; and

(e) the steps being taken to educate the people about pollution hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The status of air pollution in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai is regularly monitored in terms of National Ambient Air Quality Standards by the Central Pollution Control Board. The air quality in residential areas of all four metro cities in terms of specified criteria pollutants, namely, Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen is within the normative limits as per the information available for last three calender years *i.e.* 2005, 2006 and 2007. As for the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), the air quality is observed to be within the norms in Chennai, while in case of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, it exceeds the prescribed standards.

The main reasons for the present level of the air pollution in these four metro cities are rapid urbanization, increase in use of Diesel Generator Sets and number of vehicles besides presence of natural dust in the air.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps to reduce pollution which, *inter alia*, include enforcement of stricter auto exhaust standards for new vehicles at the manufacturing stage, use of improved fuel quality, sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stroke two and three wheelers, monitoring of exhaust emission for in-use vehicle through "Pollution under Control (PUC)" Certificate System, Stringent diesel generator set emission norms and implementation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in industry through concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.

An amount of Rs. 500 lacs has been earmarked during 2008-09 for ambient air quality monitoring across the country.

(e) The 'Environmental Education Awareness and Training' Scheme is under implementation with a view to enhance the understanding and awareness and to educate people at all levels for conservation and protection of the environment in the country. This is an ongoing Scheme to fulfil the following objectives:

— to develop educational/teaching materials and aids in the formal education sector;

— to encourage non-governmental organizations, mass media and other concerned organizations for promoting environmental awareness, among the people at all level;

— to promote environment education through existing educational/scientific/ research institutions;

— to ensure training and man-power development in environment education; and

— to mobilize people's awareness for preservation and conservation of environment.

Proper and balanced development in a State

†3289. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at least 17 per cent dense forest land is regarded as necessary for proper and balanced development in a State;

(b) if not, facts in this regard;

(c) whether a reference has been made with regard to dense forest land in the States of the country in the last published report of forest survey of India; and

(d) if so, area of dense forest land in each State of the country as per the above report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No such study has been carried out by Forest Survey of India (FSI).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Forest Survey of India has done forest cover assessment in three density classes, *viz.*, Very Dense Forest (VDF), Moderately Dense Forest (MDF), and Open Forest (OF) in the last published report.

(d) State-wise area of dense forest land alongwith Moderately Dense Forest and Open Forests and enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Details of Forest cover in States/UTs in India (2005)

(area in km²)

State/UT	Geographic Area	Forest Cover				Per cent of G.A.	Scrub
		Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	275,069	130	24,199	20,043	44,372	16.13	9,862
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	14,411	37,977	15,389	67,777	80.93	128
Assam	78,438	1,444	11,387	14,814	27,645	35.24	146
Bihar	94,163	110	3,004	2,465	5,579	5.92	129

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.